



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH J. TABORSKAK
109TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 3504
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

HOME: 203-744-7888
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8585
E-MAIL: Joseph.Taborsak@cga.ct.gov

CHAIRMAN
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE

MEMBER
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

March 8, 2012

RE: H.B. 5387 An Act Concerning Health Insurance Claim Forms And The
Development Of A Uniform Treatment Authorization Form For Mental Health Services

Dear Chairman Megna, Chairman Crisco, and Honorable Members of the Insurance
Committee:

Thank you for raising H.B. 5387, An Act Concerning Health Insurance Claim Forms And
The Development Of A Uniform Treatment Authorization Form For Mental Health
Services. I am in support of this bill because it should be a fundamental right that a
patient's relationship with their doctor is one of confidentiality. I believe this trusted right
is even more important in the relationship of a patient and their licensed psychologist,
psychiatrist, or other mental health provider.

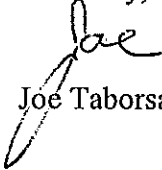
Currently in our state, this trusted right can be compromised. Before a provider is
authorized to provide mental health services to an insured patient, most insurance carriers
in the State of Connecticut require the treatment provider to complete an extensive
questionnaire regarding the patient. Most, if not all insurance carriers, as a practice, will
not approve the provision of mental health services until the questionnaire is completed
and returned. These questionnaires vary by the company and most seek irrelevant
information of the most sensitive and personal nature. I and others feel strongly that
these questionnaires are contrary to state and federal parity laws because they place a
burden and obstruction on the provision of mental health services that does not exist in
the medical treatment area.

This unfair burden becomes apparent when patients become aware of these over-reaching
questionnaires and feel that their privacy is being violated or threatened. This often
results in the patient either deciding to not use their insurance and pay for the services out
of pocket or to forego treatment altogether. Either result amounts to an obstruction to
patients in need of mental health treatment.

The State of Maryland has addressed this issue by adopting a Uniform Treatment Plan Form (see attached) as has the District of Columbia. By mandating a uniform treatment authorization form, all insurance companies must use the same form and are limited to requesting and obtaining only the necessary information. This is a sensible and fair approach to addressing this issue. Such a form should require only relevant and basic information, and should respect parity laws, HIPPA and the therapist-patient relationship.

Thank you for considering this legislation which will provide the safeguards that patients of mental health service providers expect and deserve. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Joe Taborsak

Carrier or Appropriate Recipient:
Magellan Behavioral Health
Fax: 800-365-5030
- or -
PO Box 4930
Columbia, Maryland 21046-4930

[illegible]